CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	Image 16
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1100905.015
Medium:	Computer Image File Printout
Publisher:	Not stated
Country of origin:	New Zealand
Language:	Not applicable
Applicant:	Commissioner of Police
Classification:	Objectionable.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	22 September 2011
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued

Summary of reasons for decision:

The computer image file printout tends to promote and support the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes.

The image on the printout shows a girl in her mid-teens who has photographed herself semi-naked in a mirror in a sexual pose, and sent the image to a 25 year-old man. The girl apparently created and transmitted the image at the request of the man, who took advantage of the vulnerability of a young girl who would not have the maturity necessary to be aware of possible consequences. The image invites viewers to consider underage girls as available for adult sexual use and encourages a sexual interest in young people.

The classification given to this publication interferes with the right to freedom of expression set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. However, this is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament's intention that publications falling under s3(2) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 are deemed to be objectionable. The classification is a reasonable limitation on the right to freedom of expression and reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to protect its young and vulnerable members from sexual exploitation.